

# Conowingo WIP Update

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# Agenda

- ▶ CWIP Developments since last PSC Meeting
- ▶ Overview of EPA's CWIP Evaluation
- ▶ Next Steps

# CWIP Developments Since the Last PSC Meeting

- Core Implementation Team (MD, PA, NY, SRBC and NRCS) formed to implement milestone commitments (met Jan. 4).
- 2022-2023 CWIP milestones submitted to EPA on Jan. 13, 2022.
  - ❖ Capacity Building (financial and technical)
  - ❖ Fostering Innovation (financing and BMPs)
  - ❖ Identifying and Building Partnerships
  - ❖ Pilot Project Development and Implementation
  - ❖ Securing Financing
  - ❖ Outreach/Engagement
  - ❖ Reduce 25% of the Conowingo nitrogen loads (1.675-million pounds)
- Governor Hogan (January 19, 2022) puts \$31-million in MD's budget for CWIP implementation and dredging

# Overview of EPA's CWIP Evaluation

- Released on January 25th, 2022
- CWIP Strengths:
  - ❖ Strong collaborative approach
  - ❖ Targets cost effective practices in most effective areas
  - ❖ Achieves nutrient targets
  - ❖ Comprehensive review process for BMP identification, selection, and implementation
  - ❖ Detailed strategy for stakeholder outreach in priority areas

# Overview of EPA's CWIP Evaluation, cont.

## ➤ CWIP Recommended Enhancements:

- ❖ Current lack of funding provides no confidence load reductions will be achieved by 2025 (60-day response deadline)
- ❖ More detail needed on:
  - ✓ programs targeted to support BMP implementation;
  - ✓ balancing resources/technical assistance needs between CWIP and jurisdictional WIPs; and,
  - ✓ specific locations and partners involved in BMP implementation

# Near-Term Next Steps

- Jurisdictions are working together to specify their CWIP financing commitments within the 60-day timeline EPA set to respond to the no confidence assessment.
- Core group is developing a more detailed work plan and updating our timeline to implement the 2-year milestones.
- Maryland specifically is working with EPA, the Corps and Exelon to develop a scope of work on the modeling needs to evaluate nutrient reductions with Conowingo dredging.
- Regional mussel workshop (April 2022) to advance mussel science and leverage mussel restoration partnerships.